MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 AUGUST 1982

Lebanon

Israeli Position -- After two meetings between Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. envoy Philip Habib, an adviser to Begin announced that progress had been made but that Israel still awaits some replies to its conditions before it can announce final agreement to Habib's plan, IDF radio reported. While Habib has acceded to some of Israel's conditions, Jerusalem radio said, he still insists that the 300-man French unit should enter Beirut at the same time the "terrorists" start to evacuate and that UN observers should also be deployed. In an interview with the radio, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said these two issues were the remaining points of major disagreement. After the fatal blow it has been dealt, the PLO will be liquidated and will disappear from the political arena of the Middle East, he added.

Shamir was told by his French counterpart Claude Cheysson that France has no intention of landing soldiers in Lebanon without prior coordination with Israel, according to another radio report. However, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon claimed that through speedy action last weekend, Israel prevented the fait accompli of a French landing in Beirut that had not been coordinated with Israel. Speaking in a Jerusalem television interview, Sharon reiterated Israeli fears that French troops might become a defensive wall for the "terrorists." He said Israel has deployed forces along the coast north of Beirut both to verify that no move is made without Israel's agreement and as a further necessary measure to pressure the "terrorists," who are now willing to accept "any conditions" to leave. Concerning the removal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, he said the Syrians will have to choose between the present "uncomfortable" situation of having the IDF 25 km from Damascus or agreeing to the removal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Israel has no interest in shelling Damascus or attacking Syria, he said. Regarding the planning of the "Peace for Galilee" Operation, Sharon disclosed that he paid a secret visit to Beirut in January 1982.

PLO Stance -- A PLO spokesman cited by AFP affirmed that the suggested Israeli amendments to the evacuation plan drawn up by U.S. envoy Habib would not slow down implementation of the plan and has not changed the PLO's determination to leave Beirut. Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent a cable to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, carried by Damascus television, expressing "great appreciation" for the decision to accept PLO fighters in the current "fateful" circumstances.

Syria on Beirut, Military Imbalance -- Syria has rejected the U.S.-Israeli ultimatum to withdraw its forces from West Beirut and has told its troops there to fight on, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said in an interview with Kuwait papers reported by Damascus radio. According to a KUNA report on the interview, which did not mention this, the minister admitted that there is an imbalance between Israeli and Syrian Air Force capabilities and that the Israelis have succeeded in destroying a large number of Syrian aircraft and missile batteries. However, he claimed, Syria subsequently restored the balance and shot down a number of Israeli planes. Syria's forces should be bolstered by other Arab forces, he said.

Military Situation -- Israeli planes attacked "terrorist" positions in Beirut on 11 and 12 August, according to statements by the IDF spokesman reported by IDF and Jerusalem radios. The IDF also advanced in the Hippodrome area near the Museum crossing point, capturing seven buildings, the spokesman said. The Voice of Lebanon claimed that Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has been hospitalized after being found in the ruins of a building destroyed by Israeli jets on 6 August.

Israeli forces have expanded into northern Lebanon, deploying along the coast at Jubayl and also swinging eastward toward the Al-Laquq-Al-'Qurah hills in the direction of the northern sector of the Al-Biqa' Valley, Beirut radio reported. Further south Israeli armored columns also took up positions overlooking Al-Biqa' in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh areas. In remarks reported by the radio, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said

the Israeli advance in the north assumes serious security and political dimensions and raises questions about Israel's aims in invading Lebanon.

The Syrians have reinforced their positions in Al-Biqa' and on Mount Hermon, according to MA'ARIV and HA'ARETZ reports.

Egyptian Position -- On his way back from a visit to Oman, President Husni Mubarak made a stopover in Sudan and met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, MENA reported. According to MENA, Mubarak asserted at a press conference after the meeting that if the Palestinians had helped Egypt under the Camp David framework, the Lebanese crisis would not have happened and the Palestinians would have been standing on "firm ground." He added that the United States must be a full partner in a settlement and that "100 percent" of the cards are in U.S. hands. Mubarak emphasized that Egypt had already contributed much to the Palestinians and would accept none of them except within a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue.

Jordan

In a speech carried by Amman radio on the 30th anniversary of his accession to the throne, Jordan's King Husayn spoke on the Lebanon situation and Jordanian-Israeli relations. He described the Israeli destruction of Beirut as "barbaric" and expressed disappointment that even the United Nations was unable to halt the fighting. Noting he had often warned that the Lebanese "tragedy" would lead to the collapse of Arab unity, he linked the Israeli invasion of Lebanon with the Iranian invasion of Iraq, describing both attacks as foreign aggression which demanded a unified Arab stand. Husayn stressed that a "real" Arab summit should be held and should have the "utmost" authority to adopt and abide by resolutions.

The withdrawal of Palestinian fighters from Beirut must be linked to a U.S. pledge to deal with the Palestinian-Arab-Israeli "cause" aimed at a comprehensive peace, Husayn said, adding that so far only Egypt had adopted this stand. He went on to say that Israel presents a threat to Jordan in its attempt to disrupt ties in the "Jordanian-Palestinian family." Husayn underscored that a real "organic cohesion" is necessary and that there will be no leniency with anyone who infiltrates, provokes or casts doubts on the unity and stability of the nation.

Paris Terrorism

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent a message to the French president condemning the attack on a Jewish restaurant in Paris as an "inhuman action, " LE MONDE reported.

In another attack in Paris, a car bomb exploded at the Iraqi Embassy causing damage and fires, INA reported. Paris radio said a call was made to the media by a hitherto unknown Iraqi Shi'ite group claiming responsibility for the attack.

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GANDHI MAKES STATEMENT ON TARAPUR FUEL

BK110907Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that there is no question of any additional conditions being attached to getting nuclear fuel for the Tarapur atomic plant from France. Mrs Gandhi told the Lok Sabha today that according to an understanding reached between India and the United States during her recent visit to Washington, France will supply the fuel in place of United States within the framework of the 1963 cooperation agreement. Necessary modalities for the supply are being worked out.

About reprocessing the spent fuel in the country, the prime minister said that the United States may have some reservations about it but it does not make any difference to us. She asserted that no right has been surrendered and we shall go ahead with reprocessing as and when necessary. She categorically stated that the technological breakthrough achieved by Indian scientists in evolving an indigenous fuel has not gone waste. She said it would be wrong to say that our scientists are demoralized. Mrs Gandhi said that the talks on nuclear fuel were held at the official level and she did not discuss the subject with the French or American leaders.

In reply to another question, the prime minister informed the house that the country will become self-sufficient in heavy water by the end of this decade. She said several experiments are in progress regarding peaceful uses of atomic energy. Mrs Gandhi reiterated India's commitment to use atomic energy only for peaceful purposes.

IRAN'S RAFSANJANI MEETS GANDHI, TOURS PARLIAMENT

LD111830 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 11, IRNA -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Indian Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi here at noon today (Indian local time). During their meeting Rafsanjani said that he had looked forward to meeting Mrs Gandhi because she had records of anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle. The Iranian Majlis speaker added that he and his peers had enacted the methods of struggle against colonialism as introduced in the letters of the late Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs Gandhi's father. Rafsanjani also praised the Indian people's fight for independence led by the late Mahatma Gandhi. Mrs Gandhi welcomed Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani and said that she was honored to receive him as a dear guest of the Indian Government.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, who arrived here yesterday at the head of a political, economic and parliamentary delegation from the Islamic Republic, made a visit to the Indian Parliament accompanied by Mr Balram Jakhar, the Indian speaker of Parliament. They participated in today's session of the Indian Parliament and were informed of this country's legislative procedures. During this visit the Indian parliamentarians, while welcoming the Iranian delegation, emphasised the friendly relations between the two countries and requested that their message of friendship be conveyed to Imam Khomeyni.

FURTHER ON IRANIAN DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES

LD112206 Tehran IRNA in English 2002 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 11, IRNA -- During his 90-minute meeting with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi here today the Iranian Majlis speaker outlined the rightful position of the Islamic Republic in relation with the Iraqi-imposed war, and the future summit conference of the nonaligned countries. He also emphasised the need for closer cooperation between the regional countries for countering the influence of the foreign powers. The two officials also deliberated on ways and means to expand political, industrial, economical and scientific cooperation between the Islamic Republic and India.

In another meeting the head of the Iranian atomic energy organisation, Reza Amrollahi met this morning with his Indian counterpart.

Also, in a third meeting the Indian under secretary of commerce, Abid Hussein, received his Iranian counterpart, Mr. Herayatzadeh. The two discussed topics relevant to the expansion of economic relations between the two countries, the elimination of intermediary agents in commercial exchanges between Iran and India and ways to use each country's existing facilities. The Indian commerce minister is to receive an invitation to Iran by his Iranian counterpart shortly.

INDIAN MEDICAL TEAM REFUSED ENTRY INTO BEIRUT

BK110821 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] The Israelis turned back an Indian medical team from the doorsteps of Beirut and did not allow the doctors and medical supplies to reach the war-torn Lebanese capital. This was stated by Dr R.S. Saxena, leader of the medical team, in New Delhi today on return from 2-month-long stay in Lebanon. Dr Saxena said the team waited at (Shatoor) in the Syrian-controlled Al-Biqa' Valley for 15 days for passage to Beirut, just 6 km away. The Indian team was the first to reach Lebanon and the last to leave that country.

LT GOVERNOR COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN MIZORAM

BK101024 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Aug 82 p 9

[Text] The lieutenant governor of Mizoram, Admiral S.N. Kohli, said at Calcutta airport on Wednesday that the Mizo National Front [MNF] "has started recruiting new members very recently." According to reports received by the government "the MNF wants to add additional 400 members to its present strength of about 350," he added.

Admiral Kohli, who was on his way from Aijal to Delhi, further said that the MNF had been weakened, following the surrender of about 460 insurgents and the arrest of another 180. The MNF was now trying to replenish its strength by further recruitment.

Replying to a question, Admiral Kohli said that there was a rift among the present MNF members, following the murder of two Mizos in the middle of June. One of the two murdered was a member of legislative assembly [MLA], elected in the recent by-election and the other was the editor of a pro-ruling party newspaper. While a section of the MNF was against killing of any Mizo, the other hardliner section was in favour of annihilation of those, whether Mizos or not, whose names figured in the last of their capital headquarters. The list contained the names of the lieutenant governor, the chief minister and other ministers and MLAs, Admiral Kohli said.

He claims that the present situation in Mizoram "is well under control." Patrolling and combing operations by the security forces and the police were continuing. Some of those who had fled Mizoram, following the "quit Mizoram" order served on June 21, had returned. Other non-Mizos had been put up at various "protected camps in different towns," he added.

Replying to another question Admiral Kohli said that the "situation is now somewhat tense," because the MNF sought to enforce the "quit Mizoram" order in August. Asked whether there was any apprehension of a large-scale incident, Admiral Kohli said that at present the steps taken by the administration, security forces and the police had been "able to contain the MNF activities." Constant patrolling was being carried out, despite inclement weather.

A number of those involved in the murder of nine non-Mizos in June had been rounded up and stringent action was being taken to apprehend others, [he] added. "Those arrested in this connexion had confessed their involvement in the June murder," he stated.

HAQ ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT U.S. 7 DEC

BK110242 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] It was officially announced in Washington yesterday that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has accepted President Reagan's invitation to visit Washington on 7 December. The announcement said that the two leaders will meet at the White House.

NO-WAR PACT TALKS WITH INDIA BEGIN 11 AUG

BK110709 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] The talks between Pakistan and India on a no-war pact began in Islamabad this morning. The offer of this pact was made by Pakistan. Pakistan's foreign secretary, Niaz A. Naik, is leading his country's delegation at the talks while the Indian delegation is led by Indian Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent understands that there will be three rounds of talks, during which matters of bilateral interest will also come up for discussion.

YAQUB KHAN INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA

BK081049 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Aug 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said clearing the air of suspicion is central to the improvement of relations between Pakistan and India. In an interview to BBC, he welcomed the resumption of talks later this week on the proposed no-war pact between the two countries as a positive step. He emphasized the need of basing future relations between the two countries on an understanding that will remove suspicions and doubts.

Pakistan, he said, would be quite prepared to listen attentively to what the other side has to say. In reply to a question, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan has suggested to India the idea of reduction of forces or arriving at an agreed ratio of forces between the two countries.

About travel facilities and trade exchanges, he said a great deal has been done in the past 3 or 4 years in these directions. However, Pakistan was ready in the spirit of good neighborliness to join in any suggestions for improvement in these directions.

IRANIAN ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE TO HAQ

LD092228 Tehran IRNA in English 1939 GMT 9 Aug 82

[Text] Islamabad, 9 Aug, IRNA -- A message from President Khamene'i was submitted by the Iranian ambassador in Pakistan, Abu Sharif, also known as 'Abbas Aqazamani, to President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan yesterday.

In that meeting, the Iraqi imposed war on Iran, the possible change of the venue of the non-aligned conference and the Zionist aggression against Lebanon were discussed.

HAQ COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

BK090752 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Aug 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has declared that the future political setup in the country will be based within the framework of Islamic principles as enunciated in the holy Koran and sunnah [teachings of the prophet].

Addressing a news conference in Karachi this afternoon, he said he and his colleagues were sincerely and devotedly working to build up institutions on (?sound) line to give permanence to the measures now being taken for Islamization. He said the present government had set itself at definite goals in consonance with the genius of the people and their aspirations and made significant progress toward achieving it during the last 5 years.

The president said he had already received the report of the Council of Islamic Ideology on the future political setup in the country and had consulted his Cabinet colleagues about it. However, the report would be returned to the council for some elaboration. The president added that after the political framework takes a concrete shape we will place if before the nation to elicit the opinion of all sections of the people, including politicians. He said the Pakistani nation was fully conscious of its political destination.

The president said he and his colleagues enjoyed the confidence of the general mass of the people and will remain at the helm of affairs as long as they enjoyed this confidence. He said his government had been running country's affairs with consensus and in consultation with patriotic and Islam-loving people.

Referring to the preparations for celebrating the independence day this year, the president said greater enthusiasm being shown in this regard is a demonstration of the nation's determination to uphold and defend its liberty and freedom. He said the 14th of August will remind us to keep its spirit alive.

Referring to the economy, the president said several offers have been received from Arab countries for investment in joint ventures in agro-based industries and a joint venture project with Abu Dhabi has already been approved. He hoped there would be more investments in the private sector as a result of the government's economic policy.

Replying to a question the president said he had been invited by President Reagan to visit the United States from the 7th of December next. He told a questioner that the recent visit of the Indian prime minister to America had not affected the Pak-U.S. relations in any manner. Moreover, Pakistan was not in a competition with India or any other country.

The president said Pakistan's offer of a no-war pact and also India's proposal for a joint ministerial commission will come up for discussion at the forthcoming talks in Islamabad between the foreign secretaries of the two countries.

About the Afghanistan crisis, he said efforts for finding a political solution are continuing. The number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan had exceeded 2.7 million. The Islamic countries are helping us in this regard but the main burden is on Pakistan.

The president described the situation in Lebanon as a great tragedy. He said Pakistan had done whatever it could to help resolve the crisis. It had fulfilled its duties in the Islamic Conference. He said Pakistan had every sympathy with the Palestinian people in their sufferings. He urged the people to pray to the Almighty Allah to grant Pakistan the power to emerge as a source of strength and positive assistance to the ummah [community] to defend itself and realize its objectives and aspirations.

The president said he will shortly undertake an extensive tour of Sind which was, in fact, overdue. Referring to the problems of Karachi, he said the federal and the provincial governments were fully seized of these problems. Some of them have been solved and others were in hand.

About the law and order situation he said every effort is being made to curb crime. He, however, emphasized that the people individually and collectively had to help the government in this regard. He also declared that unless the laws were brought in conformity with Islam the present-day problems of theft, dacoity and other crimes could not be overcome.

Replying to a question the president said only 835 employees of Pakistan International Airlines have been removed from service as their appointment was not in keeping with the normal procedure. Each of them had been paid 25,000 to 150,000 rupees in what he described as a golden handshake.

Later, the president laid the foundation stone of the new banknote factory of the Pakistan security printing corporation. Speaking on the occasion, he said it will not only meet the domestic needs, save invaluable foreign exchange but also serve friendly countries. The president announced the donation of 100,000 rupees for the collective welfare of the employees of the corporation.

Talking to Radio Pakistan at the airport before his departure for Rawalpindi, the president said in the context of the independence day celebrations that the Pakistan flag is the symbol of the nation and it should be honored and respected by every citizen. He said the national flag is everybody's flag and it should be held in great esteem.

POLICE LAUNCH COUNTRYWIDE MANHUNT, ARREST 16

OW101839 Hong Kong AFP in English 1822 GMT 10 Aug 82

[Text] Karachi, Aug 10 (AFP) -- Pakistan police have launched a countrywide hunt for terrorists and arrested 16 persons for involvement in recent bombings and other acts of sabotage in different cities, officials said here today.

The arrests were made by the Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) in Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Faisalabad and Lahore. Those arrested included a member of executed Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and four Afghan nationals.

They are suspected of links with the Kabul-based organisation, Al-Zulfiqar, headed by Mr Bhutto's son Murtuza. Al-Zulfiqar claimed responsibility for a recent bomb explosion at Lahore airport.

Meanwhile, police were reported to be preparing dossiers on the leaders and office bearers of all defunct political parties in the country.

Political activities and parties were banned under martial law in October 1979 when Pakistan's military ruler, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, announced indefinite postponement of scheduled general elections.

Strict press censorship was also imposed.

COMMENTATOR URGES POOLING OF ISLAMIC RESOURCES

BK061022 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 5 Aug 82

[Commentary by Fazal Qureshi]

[Text] Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan has made a strong plea for exploiting the vast potential of the Muslim world to realize the objectives of common good and prosperity. The finance minister said this during his meeting in Islamabad yesterday with a two-man Arab League mission currently on a week-long visit to Pakistan.

He told them that Pakistan had abiding interest in the promotion of economic progress of the Muslim ummah [community]. He assured that Pakistan was always prepared to share with the brotherly Arab and Muslim countries whichever knowledge, expertise and institutional capability it possessed.

The finance minister expressed the view that closer mutually beneficial cooperation will be forged between Pakistan and the Muslim countries at large through various agencies, including the Arab League. The cooperation, he added, could cover broad spectrum of spheres like agriculture, industry, engineering, medicine, banking, trade, technical know-how and manpower development.

He said Pakistan was in a position to meet substantially many economic and commercial requirements of brotherly Muslim nations. He said this could be done in a planned manner by gearing our production capability on the basis of long-term assessment of such needs.

The minister said that Pakistan was handicapped in its development efforts by capital shortages and would welcome major Arab investment in various projects on bilateral and multilateral basis. It would not only benefit Pakistan but also help attain the aims of economic self-reliance of the Muslim world, he commented.

Dr (Abul Hasan Zalzala), secretary general [word indistinct] of the Arab League, who is leading the mission, said that the purpose of their visit was to exploit possibilities of achieving closer economic, commercial, technical and financial cooperation and collaboration between Pakistan and member countries of the Arab League. He said Pakistan could assist the Arab League with the implementation of the projects undertaken by it in some of the Arab countries. As stated by the finance minister and often reiterated by President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, promotion of cooperation and collaboration between the Islamic states is one of the most important fundamental principles of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Pakistan came into being in the name of Islam and building up unity and solidarity in the Islamic ummah was one of foremost objectives of the Pakistan movement. That is why Pakistan has always been in the forefront for moves and initiatives to bring the Islamic ummah closer together and to launch moves to promote cooperation among them in all fields.

Today Pakistan is playing an important role in all the committees and subcommittees set up by the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] for more collaboration between the Islamic countries in the fields of trade, industry, banking, insurance, shipping and general exchange of technical know-how. Like other members of the OIC, Pakistan also firmly believes that among themselves, Islamic countries have more than necessary capital, manpower and technological capability to supplement each other's development and strength.

In this way, instead of looking outward, the Islamic countries can achieve outstanding results by cooperating with each other. In fact, such a cooperation, which will lead to the economic and military strength of the Muslim ummah, is the prime need of the hour. The Muslim ummah can only face the aggressive challenge of Zionist Israel and other enemies of Islam if it joins hands and draws its strength from within its own resources.

As forthrightly stated by President Ziaul Haq recently, the Muslim ummah must forget its differences and achieve unity and solidarity to achieve its real place in the world. Unless this is done, Muslims all over the world will continue to remain economically poor and continue to suffer attack and attrition such as in Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon and elsewhere.

IRNA: IRAQ ABANDONS IDEA OF HOSTING SUMMIT

LD111238 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 11 (IRNA) -- Saddam confessed to the failure of his efforts in convening the nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad and announced Tuesday that the conference would not be held there.

Saddam had spent billions of dollars for the conference and was hopeful that it would strengthen his unstable regime. His failure became evident when his agents throughout the world tried to encourage different heads of states to dispatch their representatives to Baghdad.

Iraqi radio in its news broadcast at 22:30 Tuesday announced that in his meeting with the Yugoslavian delegation, Saddam stated that under the present conditions he no longer insisted on holding the nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad, and Iraq would participate in the conference where ever it is held.

The Yugoslavian delegation arrived in Baghdad to discuss final decision to determine a new venue and date for the seventh nonaligned summit. This is the first tour of Yugoslavian officials to other countries as part of their programme to talk with members of the Nonaligned Movement about the venue issue. Yugoslavia was making a strong effort in order that the conference be held in Baghdad but new political developments concerning the change of conference site surprised that country.

KHAMENE'I SPEAKS ON WAR AT JOURNALISTS SEMINAR

LD112216 Tehran IRNA in English 2005 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 11, IRNA -- President Khamene'i today censored the world printed and broadcast media for having willfully turned their faces from much facts which [words indistinct] reflected in the media could have much enlightened the world people in connection with the criminal acts of Saddam Husayn and the Zionist regime. He said many foreign reporters and correspondents who had witnessed the crimes of the Baghdad regime especially in relation with its aggression against the Islamic Republic had kept silent in a blatant disregard of their vocational ethics.

Khamene'i, who was talking to a group of participants in a seminar of provincial reporters of the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI (organ of the Islamic Republic Party) in Tehran, reiterated that a principal condition set forth by the Islamic Republic for peace talks with the Baghdad regime had been "the punishment of the aggressor", and that if the "aggressor" be not punished it would not be an encroachment against the rights of the Islamic Republic only, but rather would jeopardise the region's security.

He added if the Baghdad regime should be left unpunished, it would necessarily imply that any potentially powerful government would have the right to make whatever encroachments upon its less powerful neighbours.

He said Iran's demand for war reparations was one within the specific interest of Iran, while the "punishment of the aggressors was one in the interest of all freedom-loving and independent peoples of the world at large."

BODY FORMED TO HANDLE FOREIGN PUBLICITY

LD111302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance under secretary for international affairs, speaking in a press, radio and television interview today, provided some information regarding the ministry's activity in international affairs, coordination in foreign publicity and the hajj pilgrimage.

Noting the importance of foreign publicity, the imam of the nation's repeated emphasis of this point and the propaganda plots by superpowers and imperialists against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said that in our foreign publicity we are pursuing two objectives: first, to counter hostile imperialist propaganda; and, second, to offer and make the characteristics of the Islamic revolution known to free peoples the world over.

Regarding the Islamic Guidance Ministry's supervision of the activity of foreign cultural organizations in Iran, he said that we have begun an examination and review of the Goethe Institute, which is a German cultural organization.

Regarding the coordination of foreign publicity, the Islamic Guidance Ministry under secretary for international affairs said that a council, called the Council for Foreign Publicity Policy Formulation, has been formed, comprising the minister of foreign affairs, the chairman of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, the chairman of the Supreme Council for Publicity, the managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the minister of Islamic guidance. He called on the organizations and institutions working in this field to cooperate with the council.

Expressing his pleasure at the appointment of Mr Musavi-Kho'ini as the imam's representative in the organization for hajj and pilgrimage and the coordination achieved in this regard, he hoped that the hajj pilgrimage this year will be more successful. He added that the Saudi Government will also issue visas for all pilgrims.

Referring to Mr Ma'adikhah's resignation from his post, he said that the running of the ministry is currently a direct responsibility of the prime minister.

In conclusion, the Islamic Guidance Ministry under secretary for international affairs stated that the ministry is busy organizing ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the war and of the revolutionary occupation of the American den of espionage.

OFFICIAL SEES NEED TO OPPOSE U.S. "PROPAGANDA"

LD111814 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 11, IRNA -- Since the Islamic revolution of Iran aims at presenting the meaning of freedom and independence to the deprived masses of the world, the United States imperialism, being aware of this mission, has invested a great deal in propaganda campaigns against the Islamic revolution of Iran, said the deputy minister for international affairs of the Ershad Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Ministry, Asgharzadeh, in a press conference here today.

The propaganda policies of the U.S. against the Islamic revolution are being executed by the U.S. embassies in various countries as well as by the U.S. mass media, including news agencies which are mainly subservient to imperialism and Zionism.

In another part of the press conference Asgharzadeh added that the U.S. imperialism, being an enemy of the Islamic revolution of Iran, had coordinated all its military, political and cultural programmes in the region to crush the Islamic revolution of Iran and prevent the spread of the revolution to other countries.

In light of such a situation, he added, his ministry had a dual responsibility to thwart the poisonous propaganda, and to convey the message of the Islamic revolution of Iran to the people of the world.

ENVOYS BEING DISPATCHED TO DISCUSS NONALIGNED

LD111730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, a Foreign Ministry delegation headed by Foreign Ministry Political Under Secretary Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam has left Tehran to visit Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Nepal. During its visit to these countries the Iranian delegation will brief officials on the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance with regard to the Nonaligned Movement and the movement's forthcoming seventh summit.

Iran is also sending another delegation to tour Syria, Libya, Algeria, Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Madagascar and South Yemen. This delegation will be headed by Petroleum Minister Gharazi.

A third delegation, to be headed by the deputy foreign minister, will leave tomorrow for Cuba, Nicaragua and [word indistinct].

These delegations are carrying written messages from President Khamene'i to the heads of the countries to be visited.

ENVOY COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA

LD092246 Tehran IRNA in English 2017 GMT 9 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, 9 Aug IRNA -- The Iranian ambassador to Nigeria, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Menhaj, in an interview with the evening daily KEYHAN today, said that the relations between Iran and Nigeria were good and further improving. Nigeria is among the countries which have a friendly stance towards the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The Iranian ambassador to Nigeria said that the Muslims of Nigeria had great interest in the Islamic revolution of Iran since they, too, had suffered a great deal from the domination of oppressors and international plunderers. At present the people of both countries are capable of pooling effectively their resources for curtailing the hands of plunderers and those seeking domination over other countries.

Although reactionary regimes such as [word indistinct] Saudi Arabia have tried to misintroduce the Islamic revolution in an unpleasant portrayal to the world Muslims, however, these schemes gave failed and fortunately the Muslims of the world continue to support the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Commenting on the plots of the superpowers against OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), of which Iran and Nigeria are members, Hojjat ol-Eslam Menhaj said that there were attempts by international plunderers to dissolve the organisation or to keep the price of oil at a low level through the reactionary members of OPEC. He further added that Nigeria had taken a progressive stance in OPEC and subscribed to a policy similar to that of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He further pointed out that in his opinion Nigeria was one of the countries which was capable of enhancing the independence of OPEC, in a joint effort with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSCRIPTION ACT DETAILED

LD112124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] Various aspects of the Conscription Act were explained at a press conference by Mr Mahmud Rohani, chairman of the Majlis Defense Committee [title as heard]. Mr Rohani said that in the last regime punishment of those who failed to report for their national service was trivial; a few months in jail or a fine. Now we see that at a time of war only some of the valiant and combatant youths are going to the fronts. Others without any sense of responsibility toward their country are failing to report. Therefore, we have decided to amend the Conscription Act and the new amendments, containing 70 articles, have been submitted to the Majlis.

He added that Article 5 makes it necessary for anyone engaged in the following activities to obtain a certificate from the National Conscription Department stating that he has either undergone military service or has been exempted: applying for a driver's license; obtaining any type of loan or agricultural, industrial housing or cattle-ranching aids from government sources and foundations affiliated with the government; running for any elected position; receiving educational certificates, business registration or registration of any property at official registry offices; requesting a national insurance card; and seeking employment with departments, legal foundations and public companies and firms.

Mr Rohani also said that Article 61 stipulates that if a person does not serve his country during peacetime he is to be deprived for 10 years of the benefits mentioned in Article 5 of this amendment act. During time of war, if a person fails to serve his country Article 62 of this amendment act makes the following provisions:

A. In addition to deprivation of all allowances and benefits already mentioned in Article 5, the said person will be deprived of access to water, electricity, gas and telephone services. These services will be withdrawn from those who obtained them prior to the ratification of this bill.

B. Deprivation of exit visas, except in cases of emergency treatment abroad or compulsory pilgrimage.

C. Violators will be exposed to the public by the media as deserters of the holy war.

He added that those eligible persons who enrolled for service as of 23 September 1980 and whose names appeared on emergency, reserve or callup lists, but who failed to report at the time of their summons will be deprived for 10 years and will suffer the punishments of Provisions A, B and C mentioned in Article 62 of this act.

If absentees living in this country report within 6 months from the date of the approval of this act and undergo their service, they will only be deprived for 5 years. The deadline for absentees living abroad to report for service will be 1 year from the date this act is ratified.

Concluding his remarks, Mr Rohani said that physicians and officials who issue eligible persons with false exemption certificates will be severely punished. Private employers who violate the act by employing eligible persons will also be punished. For the first offense they commit, their firms or factories will be shut down for 6 months and for the second offense their firms and factories will be shut down permanently.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,013

LD111730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Communique No 1,013 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Our dear compatriots are hereby informed of the situation on the fronts of the imposed war during the past 24 hours:

Exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued sporadically on most of the country's western fronts from Qasr-e Shirin to Mehran, between the self-sacrificing troops of the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries. While maintaining their firepower superiority, and controlling the fire of the forces of blasphemy, the self-sacrificing troops of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces silenced the fire of the Saddamist mercenaries, destroyed a number of their emplacements and trenches, and killed or wounded a number of enemy servicemen.

Yesterday fighting and exchange of fire took place sporadically on the southern fronts. Islam's victorious combatants on each of the fronts defended their positions and returned fire on enemy positions and fortifications. Considerable losses and casualties were inflicted on the Saddamist forces and their fire was silenced. Also, by carrying out harassment operations and by dispatching tank-hunting teams, the necessary blows were delivered at the Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

During an exchange of fire on the Abadan front yesterday, our naval heroes and gendarmerie combatants returned fire on enemy positions and units on the opposite bank of Arvand Rud, set fire to and destroyed several trenches, light and heavy weapons and observation posts of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries and killed a number of their servicemen.

Yesterday, as a result of fire opened by the Iraqi Ba'thist criminals, several houses were destroyed in Abadan.

Intrusions by the Iraqi Air Force into Iran's western and southern border areas were thwarted yesterday, too. Thanks to antiaircraft fire opened by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the attacking aggressive Iraqi aircraft were forced to flee without being able to carry out any operations.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

AIR DEFENSE UNITS FORCE IRAQI PLANES TO FLEE

LD101812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the aggressive aircraft of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime violated the airspace of Khorramshahr and Abadan at 0913, 0936, 1233 and 2010 today. However, the alertness and firepower of our brave brothers in the air defense units stationed in the region forced them to flee each time without carrying out any operations.

Also, according to IRNA and Central News Unit reports, several aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces appeared over the resistant and martyr-rearing city of Ilam at 2025 and 2140 last night and at 0900, 1005 and 1012 this morning, but the intense fire of the alert combatants of the air defense unit stationed in the region forced them to flee without carrying out any operations.

BUSHEHR ANNOUNCES RED ALERT CONDITIONS

GF120832 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 0815 GMT 12 Aug 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] This is Bushehr, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Attention, attention. Dear listeners: According to the latest reports, a red alert condition has been declared for Bushehr region. Please make sure that you comply with all the safety regulations for this condition. An air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

TURKISH DRIVERS WILL NOT DRIVE THROUGH IRAQ

GF100714 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 9 Aug 82

[Text] Turkish drivers transporting goods to Iraq have announced that because of lack of security in that country Turkish trucks will not cross through it. A spokesman for the Turkish drivers said in a statement on the matter that Turkish trucks ferrying goods to a number of Middle East countries were attacked in Iraq by the forces of the Saddam administration last week and that their cargos were plundered.

NVOI WARNS AGAINST PROLONGING WAR WITH IRAQ

TA062058 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 6 August carried a commentary entitled "The Danger of Widening Military Conflicts" The imposed war on our homeland and its prolongation has caused and is causing numerous casualties and losses to our nation and the Iraqi nation. Experience has shown that this war is only to the benefit of imperialism headed by the United States. For this reason, too, its continuation has justly aroused a great deal of concern in the public opinion of the Near East and the countries of the Persian Gulf region. In particular, the danger of the prolongation of this war has deepened with Israel's aggression in Lebanon, which is directly supported by the United States. Under the false pretext of transporting the Palestinians, Washington has planned the landing of marines from the U.S. Sixth Fleet in Beirut. In this connection we must focus attention on the dual danger of the imposed war on our homeland and the aggravation of tension in the Persian Gulf, which has come about as a result of the escalation of America's military activities, as this situation has created suitable conditions for the United States to interfere in the military conflicts which it itself has imposed on our nation and the Iraqi nation.

America aims to get as close to the Persian Gulf as possible, and by exploiting Israel's aggression on Lebanon it wants to land its military forces in Lebanon and to occupy important strategic positions in the eastern Mediterranean and in the vicinity of the borders of Iran and Iraq. The noteworthy thing is that U.S. diplomacy is striving to exploit every possibility to fan the flame of war between our country and Iraq and to aggravate relations between Arab countries and our homeland. In order to scare the royal regimes in this region, America constantly raises a tumult about the danger that allegedly the revolutionary changes in Iran have aimed at these regimes, and at the same time it exploits the differences between Shi'ites and Sunnis and religious divisions to intensify this fright, whereas both Arabs and Iranians and both Shi'ites and Sunnis are all Muslims. Washington is striving to involve its so-called allies in the region, such as the regimes of Saudi Arabia, Oman and some other dependent countries in its dangerous military adventures. If the United States brings its naval force into the Persian Gulf, in that case this force will remain in the Persian Gulf for an indefinite period. America does not enter into the Persian Gulf so that it can leave after a few days...this bitter fact must be remembered forever by all the leaders of the states of our region, particularly those who might succumb to a dangerous collusion with Washington.

KEYHAN REPORTS ON SAR DASHT PURGE OPERATIONS

GF111553 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Aug 82 p 3

[Text] Urumiyeh, KEYHAN correspondent: The army brothers, guard forces and the Mobilization unit of the popular forces completed a purge of the villages of Bivaran, Rabteh and Mraghan in the Sar Dasht area. In the operations, which were carried out with complete success, over 100 counterrevolutionaries were either killed or wounded and the bodies of 9 could be seen on the battlefield. A quantity of documents were captured from these minigroups.

During the operations, the following arms were also taken as booty: 1 heavy machinegun, 1 57-mm gun, 1 40-mm grenade launcher, 10 G-3 guns with ammunition and 5 transceivers. During these operations 10 brother fighters of Islam were killed and 15 were wounded.

The explosion of a mine planted by godless counterrevolutionary elements on the road to (Darip) village near Piranshahr wounded a Kurdish couple.

NAHAVAND VILLAGERS REPORTEDLY ATTACK OFFICIALS

GF100400 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 9 Aug 82

[Text] According to our correspondent, people in the village of (Raqiabad) in Nahavand attacked a delegation which had come to gather the villagers to go to the government-contrived Friday prayer show in Nahavand that is forced on the people. In the clash the guards opened fire on the villagers and killed three of them, including an 11-year-old child. Five others were arrested and another 18 were (?severely wounded).

Following the boycott of the government-contrived Friday show prayers by the people of the country, the Khomeyni regime is sending guards and Hezbollahi to villages to force villagers to participate in the ridiculous government shows. Irrespective of this, the mullahs do not dare hold such shows in most Iranian cities. Members of the opposition have stressed that they will (?disrupt such) shows with large explosions.

RADIO IRAN: CLASHES CONTINUE IN KORDESTAN

GF111535 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] Dear compatriots: As we reported in our newscast yesterday, the security forces and the revolution guards have formed a joint base called Seyyed ash-Shohada base and intend to destroy and crush the regime's opposition in Kordestan. They have started extensive operations against the positions of the members of the [Kurdish] Democrat Party in order to reach this goal. Reports indicate a continuation of clashes in the majority of Kurdish cities of our country. The latest report indicates that several villages around Sar Dasht were damaged by the artillery fire of the government forces and a number of people have been killed or wounded.

JEWS ARRESTED WHILE TRYING TO SMUGGLE GOLD

GF111336 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] Mashhad, KEYHAN correspondent: Following repeated reports concerning illegal transfer of currency and precious goods over land borders, and after investigations by the Mobilization Department, a group dispatched by the Central Islamic Revolution [Committee] and the information unit of the Mashhad Islamic revolution prosecutor's office, a great deal of gold, jewelry and foreign currency was taken from 24 Zionist agent Jews in Mashhad.

The find consists of 8 million rials worh of jewelry, 9 million rials of cash and around $20,000, as well as 1,000 French francs, 1,000 Turkish lira, 500 Pakistani rupees, some German marks and British pounds and a great number of valuable antiques.

The investigation order of the Islamic revolution prosecutor of Mashhad has resulted in widespread activities by the information and investigation department of his office to arrest and identify the main elements who prepared the ground for the illegal export of foreign currency and to clear the details of the case.

BRIEFS

POPULATION FIGURES -- Tehran, Aug 9, IRNA -- The population of the country has increased by about six and half million in the past three years, according to latest figures released by the department of census and civil status registration here today. In 1976 the population of the country was 32,708,744 based on the population growth rate and the 1976 statistics. Iran's population by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 83) is estimated to reach 39 million. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 9 Aug 82 LD]